

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5869

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC PINS ET

SUBJ: SECURITY DEMARCHE

REF: ADDIS ABABA 5810

1. MORNING OCT 6 DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACCOMPANIED BY VICE DEAN (AUSTRIA) AND ALL REGIONAL DEANS (CANADA, LIBERIA, MOROCCO), EXCEPT EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES WHO DECLINED PARTICIPATE, PRESENTED MOFA PERMSEC AND ACTING FONMIN MAJ. DAWIT WOLDE-GHIORGIS WITH AIDE MEMOIRE APPEALING TO EPMG "TO TAKE URGENTLY ALL MEASURES IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF THE HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, OF THEIR PERSONNEL AND OF DIPLOMATIC CHANCERIES AND RESIDENCES" AND OFFERING TO COOPERATE, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, IN THE WORKING OUT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ADEQUATE MEASURES. (SOME OF LANGUAGE REPORTED REFTEL WAS DROPPED.)

2. IN TURN, DEAN RECEIVED AIDE MEMOIRE REFERRING TO "UNAUTHORIZED INCURSIONS (SIC) INTO SOME EMBASSY COMPOUNDS AND VIOLATION OF DIPLOMATIC EXTRA TERRITORIALITY BY ARMED UNLAWFUL INTRUDERS," AND STATING THAT EPMG WAS TAKING FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES":

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A. SETTING UP SPECIAL MOBILE SECURITY FORCE TO PATROL AREAS WHERE EMBASSIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE LOCATED.

B. ASSIGNING PLAIN-CLOTHED SECURITY PERSONNEL TO SAME AREAS.

C. ISSUING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO KEBELE AUTHORITIES IN SAME AREAS "TO KEEP SURVEILLANCE AND GIVE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE."

D. PROVIDING EMBASSIES ET AL WITH EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

3. AIDE MEMOIRE THEN SUGGESTS COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND THAT EMBASSIES SHOULD TAKE VARIOUS SELF-HELP MEASURES (THERE ARE TEN OF THEM, ALMOST ALL OF WHICH SOUND LIKE THEY WERE TAKEN FROM STANDARD SECURITY OFFICER'S CHECK-LIST, E.G., STRENGTHENING FENCES, GATES AND INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS, AND ARMING OF GUARDS). EMBASSY WILL POUCH COPIES OF AIDE MEMOIRES.

4. ACCORDING DEAN, MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL AND ETHIOPIANS MADE PLAIN THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND CONCERN OF PROBLEM. DEMARCHE WAS IN FORM OF APPEAL FOR COOPERATION RATHER THAN PROTEST.

5. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE FEELING THAT TWO INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN OVERBLOWN BY SOME MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, EXERCISE HAS PROBABLY BEEN SALUTORY IN THAT FEW EMBASSIES HERE DO MUCH BY WAY OF SECURITY (EVEN LARGE ITALIAN COMPOUND HAD ONLY ONE GATE GUARD AT TIME OF THEIR INCIDENT), AND INCIDENTS MAY FORCE THEM TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIGHTEN UP. AT SAME TIME EPMG HAS BEEN MADE SHARPLY AWARE OF CORPS CONCERN, AND WHILE NET RESULT OF THEIR EFFORTS MAY TURN OUT NOT TO AMOUNT TO MUCH, THEY ARE AT LEAST GIVING APPEARANCE OF TRYING.
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